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"On the Road and in Hotel Lobby"

By DOUGLASS LEFTWICH.

The following short sketches, some of which are in negro dialect, are from the pen of Mr. Douglass Leftwich, who is one of the best known traveling men in the southern territory. Mr. Leftwich fills a large number of engagements, as an entertainer, while on his regular trips over his territory and has delighted thousands with his inimitable stories and dialect sketches. Mr. Leftwich is possessor of a splendid baritone voice, of wide range and musical quality, and "picks" a banjo "dear like a nigger."

The sketches that follow, while amusing and characteristic, lack the peculiar essence which naturally goes with them when told by Mr. Leftwich.

HAD HIM LOCATED.

Several years ago, while making a trip through Alabama, I took a train one morning to go from Tuscaloosa to Selma. A tarkey, who left Tuscaloosa on the same train, got off at Greensboro, and just as he stepped on the station platform he recognized an old friend and a conversation ensued.

I chanced to overhear the following part of the dialogue:

"Hi, Jim! What you bin, nigger? I ain't seen you gwine on no long time."

"Why, I bin livin' down hyar at Greensboro, didn't you know dat?"

"Say, Jim, is you still got dat same gal you had when you lived at Tuscaloosa?"

"Nor suh!" said Jim. "I dun cut dat nigger out; she treat me mean."

"What she do ter you, Jim?"

"Well, you see, when I moved down hyar to Greensboro, she writ er letter en told dese folks dat I was de meanest nigger in Tuscaloosa."

"Did she do dat?"

"She did dat. En wuss yit; she told 'em I'd steal."

"Is dat 'er fact?"

"En let lone dat, she told 'em I'd bin in de chain gas."

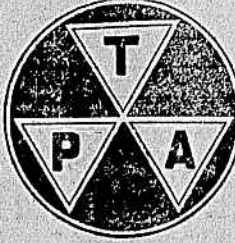
JUSTIFIABLE EXCUSE.

"Well, well, well. She sure got you located." And then the train pulled out.

An old judge in Georgia was trying a negro for assault and battery. The judge had known the negro for a long time and so allowed him to testify in his own behalf.

Addressing the negro the judge said: "Paul, I have known you a long time; you have always borne a good character and now I want you to tell all you know about this case."

"Yes suh, thankee suh, Mars. Judge, I gwine tell you dese exactly how it wuz." "You see, I wuz playin' er game of seven out wid dat yaller nigger over dar; I had six pints and he had two



en it wuz my deal. He beg me and I giv him one on de lone sock. Den he led er ace, cotched my lone Jack, played de duce, flushed de ten spot on me; en den trickt de money. Dat wuz too much fer dis nigger, so I des took er brick en try ter bust 'im wide open; das all I done."

The judge imposed a small fine on old Paul, paying it himself, and admonished Paul not to let it happen again.

As the old negro was leaving the court room he was heard to remark—"Bat he don't try to hoodoo me no more. De next time I des gwine fix him fer de buryin' ground."

A Significant Reply.

Standing on the depot platform at Atmore, Ala., one day, waiting for the train going to Chipley, Fla., I noticed an old darkey who looked like one of the old-timers. He was leaning against the baggage truck and presented a typical picture.

I went over to where he was standing with the intention of engaging him in conversation. Just then I heard the shrill whistle of the fast express blowing for the station, going in the direction of Mobile.

I spoke to the old darkey and asked "Uncle, does dat train stop at this Station?" The old fellow looked up at me, sideways like, with an expression of quizzical surprise on his weather-beaten face, and replied: "Stop here! Fo Gawd boss, she don't even hesitate."

One on Me.

Last summer I had to go to Staunton about twelve miles from Waynesboro, where I make my home.

I told my wife when I left home in the morning that I would be back on the eight o'clock train that evening.

After I had left, Mrs. L. had a talk over the phone with one of our lady friends, who was in Staunton on a visit, and she told the lady I would be at the Bakleton Hotel with my samples of pictures, etc., and if she could spare the time to call and look them over.

The lady said she would.

When I arrived at Staunton I found that one of my customers was sick, another out of town, and there was only one other to see, so I finished my work before noon, packed my trunks, had them checked to Roanoke and came home on the midday train to spend Sunday.

Our lady friend called at the hotel. She saw the porter standing in the hall and told him she wanted to see Mr. Leftwich. He said: "Dat gemmen's gone."

"No he has not," said the lady, you are just too lazy to look for him. I talked with his wife a little while ago, and she said Mr. Leftwich was here."

"Yes'm," said the porter. "I don't doubt dat, but dese wifes don't always know what dese drummers are at."

Easily Told.

Several years ago I was in Pelzer, S. C., and while there had occasion to call at the postoffice. It happened to be the hour for "general delivery" and there was quite a line of people waiting to get their mail; so I took my place in the line.

Directly in front of me was an old negro. He had evidently come a long way. His whip was in his hand and his clothes well spattered with mud.

When he arrived at the delivery window he said, "Boss, is yo got er letter in dar fer me?"

The postmaster evidently didn't know the old fellow, for he inquired, "What is your name?"

Quick as a wink the reply came: "Boss, you'll find dat on de back of de letter, suh!"

Two of Us.

Several years ago I was in Greenville, Tenn., and dropped in to see one of my friends who was not only fond of a good story or song, but who was quite a musician himself.

He used the back of his store room as a "den" for his intimate friends and has all sorts of musical instruments, a regular brass band, in it. Among the outfit I found a banjo, set down on the back door

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Post "C" Illinois Division of Chicago organized in May 1893 with 20 members. The first of Jan. 1894 the Post had increased to 50 members, and on the first of June, same year, had grown to a membership of 240. It has grown steadily until now the membership is 642, comprising the

heads of firms, corporations department managers and traveling salesmen.

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The personnel of the Post is of a high and satisfactory standard.

Many of the men in Post "C" have attained celebrity in a National sense, but the men leading and controlling its destinies are deservedly eminent at home, and many lead in their respective lines and vocations.

The Post has furnished two Chairmen of the National Railroad Committee in the persons of Mr. Neil McCoull (now of New York) and Mr. M. McCoull (now of Chicago).

It was during the time of Mr. McCoull's incumbency that the Interstate Commerce Law was amended by Congress legalizing interchangeable mileage, and during Mr.

Phalen's term the greatest progress was made in interchangeable mileage. At present Mr. C. F. Wixon of Post "C" is a National Director, one of the able and popular members of that body.

A history of Post "C" could not be regarded as complete without mentioning with reverent sadness, appreciation and pride, the energetic and able work of the late W. H. Hoegard.

In the long list of such excellent workers it is difficult to avoid personal distinction in mentioning any, but it may be pardonable to say that Richard Brunt, Angel Horner, H. S. Merritt, C. F. Wixon, H. J. Burlingame, E. J. Coyle, Justin Keith, Ralph W. Sprague, Wm. B. Bassman and J. S. Keller are among the early and late class who have and are doing much to preserve the high character, enterprise and efficiency of Post "C."

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